

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 037553 TOSEC 030076

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:AGRIFFIN:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S-O:MR. HOGANAN

S: MR. BARBIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 037553 TOSEC 030076

EXDIS FOR SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: FAHMY'S CONCERNS ABOUT
SINAI FIELD MISSION PUBLICITY (SS NO. 7603243)

1. THE PROBLEM: FAHMY HAS EXPRESSED TO HERMANN EILTS GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE PUBLICITY ASPECTS OF THE SINAI FIELD MISSION, AND HAS URGED THAT THE USG REFUSE TO PERMIT PRESS VISITS TO THE SITE (CAIRO 1996, BEING REPEATED TO YOU SEPTEL). THIS REPORT CROSSED AN OUTGOING CABLE (STATE 37523) WHICH DIRECTED THAT THE CEREMONY HELD TO MARK ACTIVATION OF SFM ON FEBRUARY 22 BE LOW-KEY AND RESTRAINED, WITHOUT AMBASSADORIAL ATTENDANCE. WE SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE SENT TO CAIRO TO CLOSE THE CIRCLE AND REASSURE FAHMY THAT WE UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERNS.

2. SUGGESTED MESSAGE:

ACTION: CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO: TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: PUBLICITY ABOUT SINAI FIELD MISSION

REF: CAIRO 1196, TEL AVIV 1069

1. YOU WILL BY NOW HAVE SEEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THORNE ABOUT CEREMONY AT ACTIVATION OF SINAI FIELD MISSION, WHICH APPARENTLY CROSSED YOUR REFTEL AND WHICH STRESSED THAT WE WANT CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 22 TO BE VERY LOW-KEY. WE ASSUME THOSE INSTRUCTIONS WILL MEET FAHMY'S CONCERNS. PLEASE TELL FAHMY I UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERNS AND AGREE FULLY THAT ACTIVATION AND ONGOING OPERATION OF MISSION SHOULD BE LOW-KEY AND NOT TURNED INTO A "CIRCUS". GIVEN WIDESPREAD LEGITIMATE CONGRESSIONAL, PUBLIC AND MEDIA INTEREST HERE IN THIS U.S. ACTIVITY, WE CANNOT OURSELVES TAKE POSITION AGAINST MEDIA COVERAGE, BUT WE WILL ABIDE BY WHATEVER DECISION IS TAKEN BY UNEF.

2. FYI: WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PRESS COVERAGE, AS OF FEBRUARY 22, DECISION ON AND CONTROL OVER WHO MAY ENTER BUFFER ZONE IS UP TO UNEF UNDER TERMS OF SINAI II AGREEMENT. WE ASSUME UNEF WOULD SEEK VIEWS OF EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS IN SUCH CASES AS ADMISSION OF PRESS AND, IF EGYPTIANS OBJECT, NOT REPEAT NOT AGREE. IN ANY EVENT, WHILE WE CAN EXPECT PRESSURE ON US FROM PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IF UNEF DOES NOT GIVE THEM PERMISSION TO COVER CEREMONY, THIS IS CLEARLY A DECISION WHICH IS NOT REPEAT NOT UP TO US AND WE SHOULD RESIST BEING PUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS ONE. END FYI.

3. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE TRANSMISSION OF ABOVE MESSAGE. APPROVE DISAPPROVE

4. DRAFTED: NEA:ALATHERTON CLEARED: S - MR. BARBIAN
TEXT OF CABLE CLEARED BY: P - MR. SISCO; SSM MR. KONTOS;
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NSC - MR. OAKLEY. INGERSOLL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: SECRETARY
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